

I claim:

1 1. A method for providing electronic mail message return receipts between at least one
2 electronic mail message originator and at least one electronic mail message recipient, the method
3 comprising:

4 receiving an electronic mail message which requires a video enhanced electronic mail
5 message return receipt when received by the at least one electronic mail message recipient;

6 providing the electronic mail message to the at least one electronic mail message
7 recipient; and

8 returning the video enhanced electronic mail message recipient to the electronic mail
9 message originator, wherein the electronic mail message originator will be able to view the
10 electronic mail message recipient reading the electronic mail message.

1 2. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

2 capturing the at least one electronic mail message recipient on video which comprises
3 providing a signal to a video capturing device to begin recording the electronic mail message
4 recipient.

1 3. The method of claim 1, wherein the video is saved in at least one format selected from the
2 group of AVI, QUICKTIME, MPEG and REALVIDEO formats.

1 4. The method of claim 1, wherein returning the video enhanced electronic mail message
2 recipient to the electronic mail message originator comprises:

3 attaching a video file to the electronic mail message return receipt.

1 5. The method of claim 4, wherein the video enhanced electronic mail message return
2 receipt is an electronic mail message provided back to electronic mail message originator.

1 6. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
2 determining when the at least one electronic mail message recipient starts reading the
3 electronic mail message; and
4 determining when the at least one electronic mail message recipient stops reading the
5 electronic mail message.

1 7. The method of claim 6, further comprising:
2 ending the video capture when the at least one electronic mail message recipient stops
3 reading the electronic mail message.

1 8. The method of claim 1, wherein the selected electronic mail message is tagged as
2 requiring an electronic mail message return receipt by the electronic mail message originator.

1 9. A method for providing electronic mail message return receipts, the method comprising:
2 determining when an electronic mail message recipient has started reading an electronic
3 mail message which requires an electronic mail message return receipt;
4 taking video of the electronic mail message recipient when the electronic mail message
5 recipient has opened the electronic mail message;
6 determining when the electronic mail message recipient has stopped reading the
7 electronic mail message; and
8 providing the video of the electronic mail message recipient back to the electronic mail
9 message's originator who specified the electronic mail message return receipt requirement.

1 10. The method of claim 9, wherein determining when an electronic mail message recipient
2 has started reading a certain electronic mail message which requires an electronic mail message
3 return receipt comprises:
4 detecting when the electronic mail message is opened.

1 11. The method of claim 9, wherein determining when the electronic mail message recipient
2 has stopped reading the electronic mail message comprises:
3 detecting when the electronic mail message is closed.

1 12. The method of claim 9, wherein determining when the electronic mail message recipient
2 has stopped reading the electronic mail message comprises:
3 detecting when the electronic mail message is minimized.

1 13. The method of claim 9, further comprising:
2 halting the video taking after a predetermined time limit.

1 14. The method of claim 9, wherein taking video of the electronic mail message recipient
2 when the electronic mail message recipient has opened the electronic mail message comprises:
3 providing a signal to a video camera to begin taking video.

1 15. A method for providing electronic mail message return receipts between electronic mail
2 correspondents, the method comprising:
3 receiving an electronic mail message having return receipt specified for the electronic
4 mail message by a sender of electronic mail message;
5 providing the electronic mail message to at least one designated electronic mail message
6 receiver;
7 determining when the at least one electronic mail message receiver opens the electronic
8 mail message;
9 capturing the at least one electronic mail message receiver on video upon opening of the
10 electronic mail message by the electronic mail message receiver; and
11 providing an electronic mail message return receipt to the sender of the electronic mail
12 message, wherein the electronic mail message includes the video of the at least one electronic
13 mail message receiver reading the electronic mail message.

1 16. The method of claim 15, wherein a signal is provided to a video camera upon opening of
2 the electronic mail message by the electronic mail message receiver.

1 17. The method of claim 15, wherein the video is attached as a file to the electronic mail
2 message return receipt.

1 18. The method of claim 15, wherein the video includes audio of the electronic mail message
2 receiver.

1 19. The method of claim 15, further comprising:
2 providing the electronic mail message receiver the opportunity to review and cancel the
3 video if desired by the electronic mail message receiver.

1 20. The method of claim 15, wherein the video is provided as a link to the video file.